FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 JANUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force attacked another ship in the Gulf on 16 January, hitting a "large maritime target" near Khark Island, Iraq announced in a military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. Monitored Iranian media have not mentioned any such attack.

Lebanon

Israel and Lebanon have agreed to continue the Al-Naqurah negotiations, which may resume on 21 January, according to UN sources cited by Voice of Lebanon radio. Earlier, Jerusalem radio disclosed that the talks scheduled for 17 January had been cancelled. In Damascus, UN Under Secretary Brian Urquhart discussed the Lebanese situation with the Syrian foreign minister, Damascus television noted. Meanwhile, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated that if a massacre occurs in the wake of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, the Lebanese Government will be "directly" responsible for it and the United Nations will be "indirectly" responsible, ITIM reported. In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres again called on the Syrians and Lebanese to rethink their positions and enter negotiations for Israel's border security and internal order in the south.

As for the security situation in Beirut, Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced new measures to curb the "anarchy" in the western sector in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio following a lengthy Cabinet meeting on the subject. The measures provide for the closure of many party offices, leaving each organization with only one central office; the collection of heavy weapons and withdrawal of gunmen; the demolition of the remaining bunkers and barricades, and the removal of "political cover" for security violators. Karami noted that the Cabinet session also dealt with the security plan for the Al-Kharrub region, where the Army had earlier extended its deployment southward toward the Bisri bridge, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

In another development, *AL-NAHAR* cited an Islamic Jihad organization statement denying responsibility for the recent killing of two French observers in southern Beirut, while noting that the Jihad does not oppose such methods which "we support and encourage." Meanwhile, French observers returned to their posts in Al-Shuwayfat and the Murr Tower, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

Israel

Relations With Egypt — The Israeli ambassador in Cairo, in a report cited by Jerusalem radio, announced that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil has asked his Egyptian counterpart to intervene in securing a Lebanese-Israeli settlement. The radio noted that this request and Egyptian willingness to discuss disputed issues, including the Sinai debt, are signs of a thaw in relations with Egypt 10 days before the Tabah talks start.

Law of Return — The Knesset defeated the religious lobby's draft resolution amending the Law of Return's definition of who is a Jew to only recognize Orthodox conversions to Judaism, Jerusalem radio reported. Following a SHAS Knesset member's resignation from the coalition, SHAS leader Yitzhaq Peretz said his faction will not cause a "government crisis," according to IDF radio.

Rocket Attacks — In the wake of reports that a katyusha rocket was fired 15 January at the Jordan Valley from Jordanian territory, Defense Minister Rabin, in remarks broadcast by IDF radio, called on Jordan to "do more" to prevent terrorist fire. The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, in a statement cited by Radio Monte Carlo, claimed responsibility for firing a rocket at an Israeli Golan Heights settlement on 15 January.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak's official talks with his Greek counterpart opened with a discussion of regional issues and bilateral relations, according to Cairo radio.

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Ershad Appoints New Council of Ministers

BK161510 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad has appointed a 7-member Council of Ministers. This evening the members of the Council of Ministers took the oath of office at a simple, solemn ceremony held at the presidency and conducted by President Ershad.

The new ministers and their portfolios are as follows:

Communications, Ports and Shipping, Internal Water Transport, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control:
Chief Martial Law Administrator Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed
Industry, Commerce, Jute and Textiles:
Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud
Home Affairs:
Major General Abdul Manan Siddiqui
Health and Population Control:
Major General M. Shamsul Haq
Food:
Major General Mohabbat Jan Chowdhury
Agriculture:
Major General Abdul Munim
Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, and Work:
Major General Mahmudul Hasan

The president also appointed three advisers:

Foreign Affairs Adviser:
Humayun Rashid Chowdhury
Finance Advisor:
M. Syeduzzaman

Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and M. Syeduzzaman will remain deputy chairmen of the Planning Commission.

Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs:
Zakir Khan Chowdhury

It may be recalled that the president, keeping his promise made in his address to the nation on 15 December, dissolved his ministry yesterday. The step proved the president's sincerity in maintaining the neutrality of his government in the coming parliamentary elections.

President Ershad Promises Free, Fair Polls

BK160155 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] People are the sovereign source of power and it is only through ballot that their opinion can be judged for any party or program. The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, said this while addressing two mammoth public meetings at Chandpur and Katua yesterday.

He said the people are ready to go to polls to establish an elected representative government in the country. Referring to the forthcoming parliamentary elections, the president reiterated that the polls will be free and fair. He emphatically said that results of the elections will be honored at any cost.

He said time has now come when the political parties should address themselves to the will of the people and participate in the polls seeking their mandate. Power will be transferred to an elected government as per the provision of the suspended constitution.

He said the election of upazila [subdistrict] chairmen will be held sometime after the holding of the national elections. The election of upazila chairmen will [word indistinct] the local development jurisdiction to the upazila parishad [council].

General Ershad said on the very first day of his government's acceptance of responsibilities of running the administration, he had pledged to establish real democracy of the people from the grassroot level and also to bring about basic reforms in the socioeconomic structure conducive to the progressive march of an independent country.

He said the reforms and changes brought about in administration, judiciary, drug policy, land system and industrial quality have already started yielding beneficial results for the people.

South Asian Regional Cooperation Meeting Ends

BK170208 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] The international conference on South Asian Regional Cooperation [SARC] has ended in Dhaka. In a final document issued at the end of the conference yesterday, the delegates said peaceful and speedy solution of the problems in the region will pave the way for accelerated progress in regional cooperation. Such an objective can be achieved if the member states of the SARC are committed to the principle of nonalignment and to the cause of international peace.

The conference, the first ever held in Dhaka, was formally inaugurated by President Ershad on Monday. It was attended by about 300 distinguished scholars, researchers, and educationists from home and abroad. They came from 17 countries of South Asia, Asia, Europe, and North America.

The document said though divergence in security perceptions among the countries of the region and disparity in their military and economic power are realities not to be ignored, it should not be viewed as an impediment to the development of mutually beneficial regional cooperation. It said member states in the region are still in a process of evolution and regional cooperation will facilitate this evolutionary process.

The conference felt that a South Asian institute should be set up in the region to carry out in depth studies on various aspects of regional cooperation. Despite many problems and challenges, the SARC is a step in the right direction and reflects the statesmanship of leaders of the countries of the region.

Gandhi Condemns Attack on Sikh; Punjab on Alert

BK161625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] In Punjab, an attempt was made on the life of Akal Takht chief, Jathedar Kripal Singh, by three unidentified motorcycle borne youths in a village near Ludhiana this afternoon. The Jathedar, who received bullet injuries, was immediately rushed to the hospital in Ludhiana. He is stated to be out of danger.

The Jathedar, who was returning after attending a bhog [food offering] ceremony at Mandiani, was attacked when he stopped his car for a while on his way back. Two of his aides, who were travelling with him, were also injured.

The prime minister in a message has expressed distress at the news of the attack on Jathedar Kripal Singh and two of his sevadars [disciples]. Strongly condemning the attack, he said the use of violence should have no place in a free and democratic society like ours. He wished the Jathedar speedy recovery.

Mr Arun Singh, one of the parliamentary secretaries to the prime minister, is rushing to Ludhiana to meet Jathedar Kripal Singh. Mr Singh is going there on the instruction of Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The Punjab chief secretary and the Home secretary have also left for Ludhiana.

The minister for Agriculture, Mr Buta Singh, has condemned the attack on Mr Kripal Singh. In a statement in New Delhi, he said it is high time that the Akali leaders and high priests come out openly against the extremists and the use of violence in Punjab.

A leader of the Panthic Party [a Sikh sect], Mr Tejwant Singh, and the president of the Akali Dal Master Tara Singh group, Jathedar Rachhpal Singh, have also condemned the attack. They described it as a cowardly act.

Meanwhile, a statewide alert has been put out in Punjab today following the shooting incident. The police and the security forces have launched a manhunt for the assailants.

Sri Lankan High Commissioner Meets With Gandhi

BK161619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The Sri Lankan high commissioner, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. According to a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry, the meeting lasted for about 15 minutes. During the meeting, the Sri Lankan envoy is understood to have discussed with Mr Gandhi the dispute over the seizure by the Indian Coast Guard of a Sri Lankan naval patrol craft along with a crew of seven off Rameswaram on Friday last.

Congress-I Leader Elected to Rajya Sabha

BK160949 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The working president of the All-India Congress-I Committee, Mr Kamalapati Tripathi, was declared elected to the Rajya Sabha today from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly constituency. The seat had fallen vacant following the election of Mr Khurshid Alam Khan to the Lok Sabha. The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, was declared elected to the State Legislative Council following the vacancy caused by the death of the Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Mr Madhav Prasad Tripathi.

Bal Ram Jakhar Reelected Lok Sabha Speaker

BK161016 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Mr Bal Ram Jakhar was today unanimously relected speaker of the Lok Sabha for the second successive term. His name was proposed by the prime minister and leader of the house, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, seconded it. There was thunderous applause from all sections of the house as the pro tem speaker, Mr Jagjivan Ram, announced that the motion proposing the name of Mr Bal Ram Jakhar has been approved. Thereafter, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Mr Bhagat, and several opposition leaders congratulated Mr Jakhar and escorted him to the speaker's chair.

Felicitating the speaker, the prime minister said Mr Jakhar has shown his mettle as a presiding officer in the last 5 years in handling difficult situations. Mr Jakhar's knowledge of the people at the grass roots level will be useful to the new house and the people. Farmers constitute the largest segment of our society, and Mr Jakhar's experience as a farmer will be of great help.

Mr Gandhi said, after the horror and turmoil of the recent eventful past, a new and stronger India has emerged. He referred to the depleted strength of the opposition in the new house and said that the ruling party will not use its overwhelming majority to suppress the dissent. He, however, added that his party's viewpoints will be forcefully argued to bring them home.

Acknowledging the greetings of the members, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar pledged to uphold the traditions of the house with all his might. He said we have to uphold the dignity of the nation and strengthen the unity and integrity of the country. He reminded the members that their prime task is to maintain the secular character of the country. He said democracy and secularism are the fundamentals which form the bedrock of our Constitution. Promising fair treatment to all sections of the house, the speaker said the opposition is as much a part of the democratic system as the ruling party.

Earlier, members belonging to various opposition parties felicitating the speaker pleaded for a more considerate treatment from the chair in the conduct of the business of the house.

When the house assembled today, some more members were sworn in. Among them were the ministers of state, Mr K.P. Singh Deo and Arif Mohammad Khan. The house today adjourned

early. After the speaker's election, no business was transacted except introduction by the prime minister of his Council of Ministers to the house.

Later addressing a news conference, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar described the opposition and the ruling party in the house as wheels of the same cart. He said it does not matter if the opposition is small. What matters is the quality and not the quantity. He expressed the hope that the opposition will be cohesive and adopt a cooperative attitude in the house on national issues. Mr Jakhar gave an assurance to all that he would allow discussion on any subject which is in the national interest and within the rule.

2 Killed, 2 Injured in Bomb Explosion in Assam

BK170304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] In Assam, two persons died and two others seriously injured in a bomb explosion at a level crossing on the Bongaigaon station of the North Frontier railway yesterday. Official sources said that the bomb was planted by miscreants. Police rushed to the spot and investigations are on.

Stalemate in Sri Lankan Situation Discussed

BK111111 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 11 Jan 85

[S. Vishwam commentary in "Spotlight" program]

[Text] It now seems that Indian diplomacy will continue to be on test for some more months to come in respect of the Sri Lankan situation. On 11 December, several days before the Lok Sabha elections, the prime minister had issued a statement on the deteriorating security situation in the island republic. That statement had expressed the hope that the cycle of violence and [word indistinct] of violence, indiscriminate killings, and destruction of property would end. We are sure, Mr Rajiv Gandhi had said, that present orgy of violence is a matter of great distress and agony to most people in Sri Lanka also who, like people anywhere, value communal harmony, amity, and peace. That orgy of violence continues in Sri Lanka till this day.

In the beginning of this week at least nine Tamils, including a Catholic priest, were shot dead, and a nunnery was ransacked by Sri Lankan troops near Mannar town. The next day, a disquieting report was received that Sri Lankan patrol boats have opened fire again on an Indian shipping vessel within Indian territorial waters killing two persons. India lodged a strong protest against this unwarranted attack. Colombo has denied that such an incident ever took place. We must respect the denial since it comes from a friendly government.

But the point to be noted is that the security situation in Sri Lanka and around it is so disturbing and alarming that such reports gain credibility and at the same time the Indian sentiments are not assuaged by [words indistinct] statements by ministers in President Jayewardene's cabinet. Secondly, the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, has said that the government would not lift the special security measures in the northern and eastern provinces until the Tamil separatists laid down arms and surrendered to the security forces. He also said that the people of Jaffna, who were suffering hardships as a result of violence unleashed by the troops, should first advise the terrorists to surrender before demanding a relaxation in the security offensive. The inference is obvious that Sri Lanka intends to resort to a military solution of the ethnic crisis.

A military solution can never be effective in the present situation. It never is, in any situation in any country in respect of any crisis. More so in Sri Lanka where a political settlement had all but been sighted at the end of the all-party conference. Under the combined pressure of Sinhalese hardliners and the Buddhist clergy, the president has not only wound up the all-party conference but also dropped the legislative proposals he had in mind. The move for the creation of a second chamber of parliament has also been aborted.

Giving the background of sequence of events since the July 1983 ethnic carnage, it is but natural that developments in Sri Lanka should cause great concern in India. New Delhi is continuing its efforts to persuade President Jayewardene to try for a settlement which could meet the legitimate aspirations of the Tamils. Since Sri Lanka does not seem willing any more to persist with India's good offices, there is no room at present for New Delhi to initiate any new major diplomatic move.

Meanwhile, events in the island are not only widening the emotional difference between the minority Tamils and the majority Sinhalese but also are tending to create new misunderstandings between India and Sri Lanka. This is not the prospect that can please either of the country. For instance, a tense situation prevails in Rameswaram and Pamban following the shooting of the Indian fishing vessels by the Sri Lankan naval forces. Three of the fishermen who were in the boats escaped and swam to Pamban. Angry fishermen resorted to violence; train services to and from Rameswaram were disrupted because agitators removed fish plates, and police reinforcements had to be rushed. Regardless of the denials from Colombo the fact remains [words indistinct]. Such incidents have their own repercussions in the morale of Tamils in Tamil Nadu who has kinship with the Tamils in Sri Lanka. In turn, these repercussions add to the pressures on the government in New Delhi. It is only legitimate to hope that the difficulties faced by the central government by the sentiments of the Tamil population in India's southern states will be recognized by Sri Lanka. In the past, Colombo has remained insensitive in this respect.

Meanwhile, the flood of refugees fleeing from the terrorism of the security forces to Tamil Nadu is swelling. The Tamil United Liberation Front leader, Mr Amirthalingham, has said that some tangible action is called for on India's part to restore normalcy in the northern provinces. The India high commissioner in Colombo, Mr S.J.S. Chatwal, and the Sri Lankan high commissioner in New Delhi, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna, are currently in their respective capitals acquainting the leadership with the situation and seeking direction on the next step. The prime

minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said in an interview to an American magazine that he will be having another look at the Sri Lanka situation. He has also discounted the possibility of any military action on India's part.

From the beginning of the crisis, India has impressed on all concerned the necessity of a political solution within the framework of the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. With this firm assurance in mind, the Colombo administration should undertake two tasks as a massive priority. Firstly, Sri Lanka should bring a speedy end to the distressing orgy of violence, indiscriminate killings of innocent civilians, and destruction of property. Secondly, it must recreate the atmosphere for resumption of a dialogue with the moderate Tamil leadership. As Mr Rajiv Gandhi has said, the ethnic crisis is an internal problem of Sri Lanka, and it is Sri Lanka which must solve it. But India is concerned only because the crisis is having an emotional fallout in India, not to mention influx of as many as 40,000 refugees who have been looked after and kept under control. Colombo should not permit a further vitiation of the atmosphere. Is it too much to hope?

Spokesman Views Election Disqualification Clauses

BK170553 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The federal Cabinet, which met in Rawalpindi today under the chairmanship of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, discussed the forthcoming general elections and noted the beginning of extensive political activities throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Later, an official spokesman told newsmen that it seems as though vested interests have misinterpreted some of the clauses regarding disqualification [of candidates] so as to create distrust in the election program. The spokesman said that the president's visits to two of the country's major provinces as well as detailed exchanges of views with prominent citizens from various walks of life have made it clear that some quarters have misapprehensions of the clauses regarding disqualification.

The spokesman said the Cabinet also took notice of editorials and columns in certain newspapers that have commented on certain clauses regarding the disqualification of candidates in the coming elections. The spokesman said the Cabinet was informed by the chief martial law administrator's secretariat that hundreds of candidates affected by these clauses have petitioned the president seeking clarification on their participation in elections. It is obvious that it is impossible to take action regarding these petitions by the specified time, therefore, the need for an amendment to the disqualification clauses has arisen.

The Cabinet thinks that, instead of taking any administrative step in this regard, the people themselves should make a final decision on political disqualifications through freely exercising their right to vote during the elections. The Cabinet expressed its full confidence in the ability and political awareness of the people of Pakistan to distinguish between good and bad leaders through a fair and free democratic process, the spokesman added.

The spokesman said the Cabinet has decided to amend the Political Parties Amendment Ordinance 1985 promulgated last Saturday regarding the disqualification of candidates for national and provincial assemblies. Two subsections — Nos 3 and 4 of this ordinance — have been deleted. Subsection No 3 provided that no person will be elected or made a member of the Parliament or of any provincial assembly for 7 years if he has been at any time since 1 December 1971 an office bearer or member of the executive committee of any political party at the national or provincial level that has neither been registered with the Election Commission nor been declared eligible for contesting elections by 11 October 1979. The deleted subsection No 4 of the ordinance also provided that no person will be eligible to be elected or made a member of parliament or provincial assembly for 7 years if he has been a federal or state minister, adviser or provincial minister since 1 December 1971 and before 5 July 1977. However, the spokesman said, the section regarding persons who had been disqualified by the tribunals for a period of 5 years — which was later extended to 12 years — has remained intact. The president, however, can waive a person's disqualification at his own discretion or through a written order in response to an application by a disqualified person.

The spokesman said the decision to amend the disqualification clauses reflects the government's desire to hold totally free, fair, and impartial elections. In reply to a question, the spokesman said that with these amendments all people will be able to contest elections except those who have been disqualified by tribunals. The spokesman also said that the time given for electioneering is much more than that given in many other countries. Enough time has also been allotted to all people to file their nomination papers.

The Cabinet also ratified an agreement for cooperation between Pakistan and Nepal in the field of agricultural research.

Pakistan Informs UN of Afghan Airspace Violations

BK170245 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Pakistan has informed the United Nations of two more instances of airspace violations from Afghanistan. In a letter to the secretary general, Pakistan's ambassador, S. Shah-Nawaz, said that serious incidents took place in the Domandi area of Baluchistan and the Arandu area of Chitral District in the Northwest Frontier Province on 7 and 8 January. The letter gives details of these two incidents.

The ambassador also told the secretary general that Pakistan has categorically rejected the Karmal administration's allegation that Pakistani militiamen had entered into the Chamkani area in Paktia and fired on Bangash village and on a border post. The letter was circulated as a document of the United Nations yesterday.

Nine Karmal Military Posts Overrun by Mujahidin

BK161104 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] In Afghanistan, nine Karmal military posts have been overrun by mujahidin in Paktia Province after heavy fighting. According to Western diplomatic reports in New Delhi, the 56th Karmal Brigade in Barikowt town is still under the mujahidin siege despite a joint Soviet-Karmal forces offensive to destroy them. Other reports indicate increased activities by the mujahidin in the Qandahar and Arghandab areas, where a Soviet helicopter gunship was shot down and some Soviet troops were killed by the mujahidin.

JASARAT Comments on Constitutional Reform

GF161800 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 8 Jan 85 p 3

[Editorial: "How To Come Out of the Dark Tunnel"]

[Excerpts] At a seminar held recently at the Karachi Press Club on constitutional problems, Justice Dorab Patel, retired Supreme Court judge, analyzed the condition of the Constitution in the country and said that today we are passing through a dark tunnel and that no end is yet in sight.

The fact is that a 7-year suspension of the Constitution is bound to generate concerns especially when we are about to start

another constitutional journey in the near future. The concerns are due to the fact that the 1973 Constitution has never been restored or even applied. Now, according to the president, there will be some amendments that will make its re-adoption possible and desirable. What these new amendments will be is anyone's guess. Even the president himself was not very clear about them.

There is, however, one consolation. The president, in his recent meeting with Mian Tufail Ahmad and in some later press statements, assured the nation that he would not amend the 1973 Constitution out of its current form.

Justice Dorab Patel has rightly said that the Supreme Court had never agreed to demolish the spirit of the 1973 Constitution. In Nusrat Bhutto's case the Supreme Court upheld its decision that the fundamental article of the Constitution could not be replaced. Any laws introduced by the current government must pass muster in the courts before they are approved or applied.

Another judge, Justice Abdul Hafiz Mamon (retired), has also rightly said that the Supreme Court had held the 1973 Constitution as the supreme law of the land. Its structure could not be torn down since it was built after much hardship and effort.

If any apprehensions exist in the public mind regarding its future, they are there because of patriotism and political farsightedness. If the 1973 Constitution is scrapped, it will amount to a virtual strangulation of our constitutional existance.

Justice Abdul Hafiz Mamon also said that the country's constitution should not be taken as just another book. Only a dead nation does not care about its constitution. We must add what Mr Mamon said: God also does not prolong the life of a people who let their constitution be a toy in the hands of its leaders. No people should allow its rulers to continue to strive to make the constitution conform with their actions, instead of making their actions conform with the constitution,

How unfortunate it is that we, after 37 years of independence, are still groping in a dark tunnel, that we are still fearful that even if we somehow come out of this dark tunnel, yet another martial law regime will shove us back where we were. Today a solution to this impasse in the founding of a national security council is dangled before us. Such a council would, it is being said, make the resumption of a constitutional government possible. However, what guarantee is there that the martial law regime that founds a national security council would not once again scrap the council and resume doing what it has been doing thus far?

As Justice Abdul Ghani (retired) has said: Although the pen is mightier than the sword, our sword has happened to have tasted the blood of our Constitution and there is currently no way in sight to save the Constitution from that sword.

Under the circumstances, we believe that because of sidestepping on the part of the political parties and leadership, the politicians never gained enough power to prevent a martial law regime from taking power. It is unfortunate in this country that the politicians are weak while the sword wielders are strong. Today politics seem to be a hand maiden of the military. No amount of agitation will cure this malady. The people must revolutionize their thinking. They must develop a democratic mind because without it,no democratic system would succeed. On the other hand, our rulers should also make concessions. They must free political life, the press, and the judicial system, because, as Fakhruddin Ebrahim Ji has said, unless this happens there will be extreme popular reaction and the country will become a graveyard.

It is unfortunate that while we stress Islam, justice and law remains shackled and the people get little justice in the courts. As Mr Justice Mohammad Ali Saeed has rightly said in the same seminar on constitutional matters, the judiciary is the conscience of the people. The judiciary should not be meddled with nor should it be suppressed in any way.

SRI LANKA

Release of Indian Fishermen Under Consideration

BK161305 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government is giving urgent consideration to the Indian Government's request for the release of 17 Indian fishermen. The state minsiter and Cabinet spokesman, Dr Anandatissa de Alwis, said this to newsmen in Colombo today.

Security Minister Says 'Slain' Priest in India

HK160644 Hong Kong AFP in English 0612 GMT 16 Jan 85

[By Neville de Silva]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 16 (AFP) — A Roman Catholic priest said to have been killed by soldiers 10 days ago instead went to India with Tamil separatists, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said here today.

Father Mary Bastian, a Tamil, left a church with the separatists after it was attacked by troops who had been tipped off that the militants were there, the minister said.

Police had found that the priest went from the church in northwestern Vankalai to nearby Pesalai and then to southern India across the Palk Strait in two different boats, the minister said.

Police investigators had established that two "lecturers" who had been giving classes to separatists in a school by the church crossed the strait with the priest and some separatists, the minister said.

The Tamil bishop of Mannar, near Vankalai, accused the Army of killing the priest in a statement shortly after the incident.

"Catholics of Mannar and I bemoan the cruel, inhumane and unthinkable act against a man of God," the bishop said.

Mr Athulathmudali said today that the bishop had not produced any witnesses or other evidence to support his claim.

The Sri Lanka bishops conference had called for an immediate and impartial inquiry into what it called an "unprovoked Army attack on the church."

The Army said grenades were thrown at troops after they had surrounded the church on a tip-off that separatists were hiding there.

Eight separatists and a woman passerby were killed in the ensuing shootout, the Army said.

It added that 56 sticks of dynamite, handgrenades, cartridges and bullets and separatist literature were found in the church. The bishop of Mannar denied the Army's claims.

Meanwhile *THE SUN* newspaper reported today that the Army had killed two separatists and wounded several others in a shootout at Vedathaltivu near Mannar yesterday.

THE SUN said the separatists were planning a large scale ambush. The security forces were supported by helicopters, it said.

The troops had recovered 148 sticks of dynamite and two exploders.

State Ministry officials said they had no official information about the incident.

Cabinet, Majlis Deputies Hold Joint Session

LD162019 Tehran IRNA in English 1812 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA — The Cabinet and a group of Majlis deputies held a joint meeting today to discuss the relationship between the executive and the legislative branches.

"Such meetings could speed up the implementation of various matters and, possibly solve the bottlenecks which may exist," Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in an address to the meeting.

Rafsanjani expressed hope that the joint meetings would continue in the future and would bring moral and social benefits.

Also in the meeting, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said government officials were facing some difficulties in executive affairs, but at the same time, he added, the Majlis deputies also had expectations.

"Sometimes there are some issues which are not reflected to the Majlis the way they really are and so I think these meetings could strengthen the working process between the Majlis and the government," Musavi said.

UN Representative Addresses Government Officials

LD161953 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Kerman, Kerman Pr., Jan 16, IRNA — Iran's permanent representative at the United Nations Seyed Rajaie-Khorassani said to a group of government officials here that the Islamic Republic would continue to tread the same course in its foreign policy as it chose after the culmination of the revolution in Iran and that it would hold out a foreign policy dictum which dismisses any form of submission to either of the superpowers.

The visiting Iranian U.N. official said when addressing either of the superpowers, the Islamic Republic maintains an identical "language" and "fights them with political politesse and without embarrassment."

He reminded that despite the hostile propaganda of the enemies of the Islamic Republic, the Islamic Revolution has its own peculiar spell upon world Muslims and that more and more Muslims throughout the globe are becoming adherents to and supporters of the revolution in Iran.

U.S. Grants Additional $12 Million Credit to Iraq

LD170005 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Regarding the continuation of U.S. support for the shaky regime of Iraq, U.S. diplomatic sources in Baghdad have stated that Washington agreed yesterday to grant a credit of $12 million dollars to Iraq. The Central News Unit, quoting AFP, says that the same sources added that this agreement was signed in Baghdad yesterday between a visiting U.S. delegation and Iraqi officials. This credit brings the total figure for America's loans to Iraq in the years 1984-85 to $675 million.

Making no reference to Iraq's economic crisis, this report adds that in 1984 Iraq purchased rice from the United States worth $175 million and that it plans to import the same quantity of rice from the United States in 1985.

It is necessary to mention that Iraq and the United States announced their establishment of diplomatic relations on 25 November last year.

Iraq Deceiving UN Fact-Finding Delegation

LD162055 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan 16, IRNA — As a United Nations delegation is investigating the treatment of Iranian prisoners of war in Iraq, the Iraqi rulers have been trying to build a false image of their brutal regime by launching a propaganda campaign about 140 Iranian prisoners who have become literate at an Iraqi camp, by the sponsorship of two Swiss charity groups.

The Iraqis, by blowing up the literacy training in the domestic press and encouraging the international media to reflect their "great achievement", are in fact making a desperate effort to cover up their mistreatment of Iranian prisoners in front of the eyes of the U.N. delegation.

The real issues facing the U.N. delegation should not become obscured in view of such ploys. These issues — the fate of the missing Iranians in Iraq, the murder of Iranians in various camps, secret prison camps, the holding of hundreds of Iranian civilians and many others — must be clarified in the delegation's final report.

There is reason to hope that an objective final report, as in previous reports by the U.N. secretary general's missions to Iran and Iraq, could force the Iraqi regime to reduce its tyranny against the Iranian POW's under pressure from the world public opinion.

Iraq Expels 420 People; Deportees Enter Iran

LD161819 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Pr., Jan 16, IRNA — The Iraqi regime expelled 420 women, children, young and elderly persons and left them in arduous mountainous border regions. The group entered the Islamic Republic Tuesday evenning and Wednesday after their difficult journey. The deportees are from various Iraqi cities. A relief headquarters was set up composed of representatives of the various relevant local offices in Javanrud District, in Bakhtaran Province to settle the deportees and treat the injured.

Kuwait Continues Expelling Iranian Residents

GF161600 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] In a continuation of its hostile attitude toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, during the last few days the Kuwaiti Government has expelled another 29 Iranian residents of that country. According to a report by the Central News Unit, these persons

arrived in Bushehr via the Persian Gulf in motorboats and were accommodated in refugee camps set up for deportees from Kuwait. Before their deportation, they were kept in prisons for 10 to 15 days and subjected to mental and physical torture. Their personal property has been confiscated by the Kuwaiti officials.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,974

LD161715 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA -- Artillery fire of the Islamic combatants of Iran demolished five Iraqi personnel carrier trucks, three artillery units and one munitions depot killing or wounding about 25 enemy troops in the western border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam during the preceding 24 hours.

Joint Staff Command Communique No. 1974 issued today said also that Iraqi activities and movements were thwarted in the northwestern fronts of Piranshahr and Sardasht during the said period.

In the southern fronts, the exchange of fire was heaviest in Zobeydah and Hoseyniyeh, while Iraqi movements were disturbed, their fire was silenced and four observation posts and several group bunkers were demolished in these fronts. Also the movement of engineering units of the enemy were halted and several of the Iraqis were killed.

Abadan was sporadically barraged by Iraqi long-range fire during the past day as a result of which two civilians were wounded while seven houses and four shops damaged, concluded the Joint Staff Command communique.

Basij Combatants Depart for Battlefronts

LD162203 Tehran IRNA in English 1854 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA — About one thousand Basij forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps today left the Hamzeh Seyyed al-Shohada's military headquarters for the battlefronts, at the end of a three-month basic military training course.

In a ceremony prior to their departure, the members of the Basij forces sang religious poems and voiced their determination for fighting the enemies of the Islamic Revolution in order that the divine laws may prevail upon every aspect of life in the Islamic Republic.

The Basij combatants were then seen off by their relatives and a large group of the city people.

Iraqi Losses Mounting on Bakhtaran Front

LD161717 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Pr., Jan 16, IRNA -- Thirteen Iraqi individual and group bunkers, three artillery units, five vehicles and 9 observation posts were demolished by the Islamic combatants and a jeep carrying 106 mm guns was damaged during the past 24 hours in the western fronts of Bakhtaran.

The Islamic combatants also killed or wounded 37 enemy troops in these fronts and halted the movement of Iraqi forces by zeroing in on the enemy's military fortifications and logistic routes.

Revolutionary Group Kills Ten Iraqi Officers

LD161742 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Pr., Jan 16, IRNA — Ten Iraqi officers were killed and more than 20 wounded when a revolutionary group affiliated to Iraq's Islamic Amal organization hand-grenaded a social club of Iraq's Al-Jaysh al-Sha'bi (the so-called People's Army) and a cabaret in Baghdad's Sa'dun Street, a spokesman for the mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq told IRNA Wednesday.

Following this operation, the state-owned Baghdad T.V. presented to its viewers three Iraqi mojahedin as those responsible for bombings in that country, alleging that they were agents of Iran and Syria who, by planting a bomb in a car, had caused the destruction of a school killing a number of children.

The spokesman for the Amal organization, while refuting this claim of Baghdad Television, added that all bombings that are carried out by the group are aimed at destroying houses of disrepute and that so far no bombing has been carried out against popular and educational centers in Iraq by this revolutionary organization.

He concluded by saying that armed struggle against the Ba'thist regime of Iraq by Amal will continue unabated.

Military Intelligence Official Killed

LD161230 Tehran IRNA in English 1201 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan 16, IRNA — The deputy chief of the Iraqi military intelligence organisation has been killed during a visit to a military base near Baghdad, an Iraqi opposition newspaper reported here.

Colonel Jasim al-Jabburi was killed when his vehicle struck a mine laid by Muslim Iraqi military men at the Al-Walid Air Base early last month, the Iraqi opposition paper, *AL-JIHAD*, reported in its January 14 issue.

AL-JIHAD said it had received the report from a "special" military source in Baghdad and that a number of al-Jabburi's guards were also killed.

KDP, Komeleh Clash in Kordestan Province

GF131240 London KEYHAN in Persian 10 Jan 85 p 15

[Excerpt] Following 1 and 1/2 months of attempts to cover up an extensive clash between the Democratic and Komeleh Parties in the Uramanat region of Kordestan, each side has finally revealed their fundamental differences. In their statements, each side accused the other of "collusion with the regime" and acting "as the fifth column for the ayatollahs." The 16th November events in Uramanat were not known by the regime and no statements

or reports were issued about it. According to the Kurdish Democratic Party, the Komeleh Party, which has formed the Communist Party of Iran by joining the communist Sahand group, 2 years ago suddenly started sending its Peshmarga to the Uramanat region and villages around Nowsud. They had no bases in the region before this.

They then start making changes in the villages of the Uramanat region to bring them into conformity with Marxist theories, which are hated by the people. The population complained to the KDP. The KDP sent a group to investigate and bring peace to the area. On 15 November the KDP Peshmarga were interrogating a number of suspicious elements in Qaluz, some 200 meters from a post of the Islamic regime's guards. The post is located near Nowsud. The KDP Peshmarga were faced with the objections of Komeleh Peshmarga, and having refused to leave, the Komeleh group opened fire on them. An extensive clash ensued and a number of KDP commanders were killed. Three KDP Peshmarga were captured by the Komeleh group. Hours later, fresh KDP forces attacked the Komeleh post, and after killing 13 and taking 17 prisoner, forced the Komeleh to leave the region. The following day, another clash took place and 13 Komeleh Peshmarga and 3 KDP members were killed.

The Komeleh Party, which enjoys the support of the Cherikha-ye Fada'i — minority Ashraf Dehqani group — and also the Sahand communist group and the Kurdish Communist Party, in a detailed statement has accused the KDP of having committed the greatest crime in the history of Kordestan by attempting to destroy the struggling forces in Kordestan, which are opposed to collusion and negotiation with the regime. Komeleh writes: Even the guards of the Islamic regime have not committed such a crime as that of the KDP against the Komeleh Peshmarga. On the evening of 16 November they attacked our base with heavy weapons, and after martyring 13 of our comrades they took a number of prisoners. Later on they executed these prisoners at the party headquarters in front of the collusive party officials, and then set their bodies on fire. They also burned alive another 17 of our comrades, taken prisoner.

While these two Kurdish groups are blaming and accusing each other, the Hamzeh Seyyed al-Shohada base in Reza'iyeh [Urumiyeh] announced that in an attack by government forces against KDP positions in Uramanat, 24 KDP members were killed and 30 were taken prisoner.